

**Regional Service Council Minutes
Region # 9**

Meeting Date: 7/27/07
Meeting Location: Hendricks County Dept. of Child Services
6781 E US Hwy. 36, Avon, IN 46123

Council Members Present:

Jana Minks - Montgomery County DCS, Tim Miller - Director, Morgan County DCS, Harmony Gist - Morgan County DCS, Barbara South - Director, Putnam County DCS, and Char Burkett-Sims - DCS, Region 9 Regional Manager

Guests Present:

Andrea Goodwin - Hendricks County DCS, Kamilla Aeschliman - Boone County DCS, Mark Fairchild - Region 9 Community Partners for Child Safety, Patti Harmless - Putnam County Youth Development and Community Youth Services Bureau, Lisa Plewa, Children's Bureau, Michael Frye - Midwest Center for Youth and Families, David Eilar - Wernle Children's Home, Katherine Newkirk - Communications,

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM.

Practice Reform Update:

- Montgomery County DCS was recognized recently for its overall performance in the areas of Child Well Being and Permanency during the federal Child and Family Services Review.
 - There were 3 sites selected for review: Montgomery County, Marion County and Jefferson County'.
 - Montgomery County's overall outcomes were the best among the 3 locations and Montgomery has been involved in practice reform the longest.
 - Statements from clients and community partners during the review presented very positive feedback.

Meeting Dates:

There continues to be conflict with the meeting date, however, the subject is always open for discussion. Char will speak to the judges regarding their schedules that are probably the most difficult in accommodating. It has been tentatively decided to have the meetings on the fourth Friday of each month with the idea that having a more consistent time of the month would be more helpful in planning schedules.

The tentative schedule for future meetings is as follows:

- August 24, 2007
- September 28, 2007
- October 26, 2007
- November 2007 (TBA)
- December 28, 2007

*The meetings are scheduled at 9:00 AM and held at the Hendricks County Office

Substance Abuse Treatment:

- The Division of Mental Health and Addictions (DMHA) was contacted for assistance in locating models of effective substance addiction services in Indiana. As a result the Tara Treatment Center in Franklin, IN was identified as a provider who has had some success. Tara offers treatment program that focuses on gender specific programs.
 - Char will make arrangement to take a tour of the facility. This tour will be for anyone who would like to go.
- DMHA has also offered to intervene in situations where a facility has not been responsive to the needs of our clients. If you have had any families who have been dismissed from treatment due to relapse, please share your stories with us.

Data:

- Statistics were presented regarding the placements of children within the region.
 - Placement of CHINS is right now the number one area that needs some extra attention.
 - Attention needs to be focused on keeping children safe in their own home at a first option.

Funding Proposals:

Boone County is requesting to transfer IV-B funds. The request is to transfer \$3,000.00 from Boone County Mental Health to Luther and Family Service and also requesting to transfer \$10,000.00 from Boone County Mental Health to Families United. The question was raised as to whether this would impact total funding for the other counties in the region, as they also utilize funds from Boone County Mental Health. The reply was that it would not have any impact on the other counties.

All members in attendance approved the request but there was not a quorum at his meeting. Kamilla will request approval of at least two other council members. Approval is pending the receipt of additional votes.

Putnam County requested \$1400 on educational information for a DCS/ Safety Awareness booth displayed at the Putnam County 4-H fair during the June meeting. There were not enough voting members present at the last meeting for a quorum. Subsequent to the meeting Barb South solicited approval from Kandi Killin and Harmony Gist. Funding was approved.

Hendricks County is requesting funds to be transferred from one service category to another for Family Works. There will be a licensed therapist with a Master's Degree as well as the home based counselor. All voting members present agreed but 2 more votes are needed to pass this. Vote will be finalized by the next meeting. Approval is pending the receipt of additional votes.

General Discussion**➤ Child Advocacy Center Update:**

Andrea Goodwin provided an update of the planning process. The plan is to have the Finding Words training in May'08 with a multi-discipline team such as medical staff, LEA, prosecutors to help in planning the investigation process. Members from staff within the Region can be included in this training.

➤ **Community Partners for Child Safety:**

Mark Fairchild discussed the continuing progress of the program. Referrals continue to come in strong and there are 56 active cases with 3 staff. They are looking at adding an administrative support staff member. Every county, with the exception of Putnam County, has a full caseload.

Staff is now at caseload capacity and with the anticipation of more referrals coming in when school starts there is a need to plan for growth of service funding and staff. This will be put on the table for discussion with the Regional Services Council. Mark will bring figures to the next meeting with anticipation of what the next 6-9 months might look like.

➤ **Wernle Children's Home:**

David Eilar, Referral and Development specialist from Wernle Children's Home, presented information about the facility. Wernle currently has one unit that is totally secured. Wernle has openings and are taking referrals currently. Wernle also offers training and workshop such as cultural diversity and sexual offenses and would be willing to provide these services to DCS local offices. Mr. Eilar is the contact person for any of these services.

Next Meeting:

Date: 8-24-07

Location: Hendricks Co. Department of Child Services, 6181 E. US Hwy. 36,
Avon, IN 46123

Time: 9:00 AM

Meeting concluded at 10:40 AM